



**Saint Pelagia the Former Courtesan  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on October 8.**

This saint was a prominent actress of the city of Antioch, and a pagan, who lived a life of unrestrained prodigality and led many to perdition. Instructed and baptized by a certain bishop named Nonnus (Saint Nonnus is commemorated Nov. 10), she departed for the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, where she lived as a recluse, feigning to be a eunuch called Pelagius. She lived in such holiness and repentance that within three or four years she was deemed worthy to repose in an odour of sanctity, in the middle of the fifth century. Her tomb on the Mount of Olives has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

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*Dismissal Hymn. Plagal of Fourth Tone*

**I**N thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Pelagia, thy spirit rejoiceth with the angels.

*Kontakion. Second Tone  
Thou soughtest the heights*

**W**ITH fasting didst thou\* consume thy body utterly; \* with vigilant prayer \* didst thou entreat thy Fashioner \* that complete forgiveness of thy former deeds be granted thee, \* which, O Mother, thou didst receive. The path of repentance hast thou shown to us.



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